

as far inland as Kalgoorlie, has become very rare in the central districts. It is very shy, frequenting dense undergrowth, and is not easy to flush. If put up it rises suddenly and flies rather rapidly for a short distance, dropping into thick scrub at the first opportunity.—G. C. S.]

*DROMÆUS NOVÆ-HOLLANDIÆ* Lath.

*Dromæus novæ-hollandiæ* Math. p. 5.

*a-c.* ♂ ♀ et juv. Parker's Range, 11th–18th Aug.

*d, e.* Ad. Kurrawang, 27th Sept.

*f, g.* Ad. Laverton, 17th Oct.

Iris clear hazel or buff yellow; bare skin on the head, neck and thighs bluish-white; bill olivaceous-black; legs dusky olivaceous-black.

[The Emu is widely distributed throughout the southwestern, central and western divisions, being particularly numerous in the interior. It frequents open flats and scrubby plains and is rare in the forest-districts. The spotted form, *D. irroratus* Bartl., I believe to be founded on immature birds.—G. C. S.]

VI.—*Obituary*:—THOMAS SOUTHWELL, Prof. GIGLIOLI,  
and Dr. BOWDLER SHARPE.

A VERITABLE link with the past generation of Norfolk naturalists was the late THOMAS SOUTHWELL of Norwich, who died on the 5th of September, 1909, in the seventy-ninth year of his age. In the first volume of the *Trans. Norf. & Norw. Nat. Soc.* he wrote, "I have myself talked with men who have taken the eggs of the Avocet and Black-tailed Godwit, and who have seen the Bustard at large in its last stronghold. The Bittern was so common in Feltwell Fen that a keeper there has shot five in one day, and his father used to have one roasted for dinner every Sunday." Again, "I have found the eggs of Montagu's Harrier, and know those who remember the time when the Hen Harrier and Short-eared Owl bred regularly in Roydon Fen, and who have taken the

eggs of the Water-Rail in what was once Whittlesea Mere.”

This is indeed a peep into the past, and might serve as an introduction to any naturalist who did not happen to know Southwell. But as a matter of fact he must have been well-known not only to the naturalists of East Anglia, where he spent his life, but far beyond the confines of his own county. For although he did not travel much, he was a zealous correspondent, and his name would be familiar to many who never saw him, through the medium of his books and published writings.

Born at King's Lynn on June 15, 1831, as soon as he was old enough to turn to a profession he entered Gurney's Bank at Lynn, whence he was transferred to the branch at Fakenham and subsequently to Norwich. There he spent the remainder of his life, retiring from business in 1896 after exactly fifty years' service.

When the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society was founded in 1869 he was one of the original members, and long acted as honorary secretary, besides serving on the journal committee. The 'Transactions' of the Society, which he helped to edit from that time forward, frequently contained valuable papers of his own relating to the mammals and birds of the county, as well as to archæological subjects of local interest, such as ancient wildfowl decoys, swan-marks, and the former condition of the fen-lands. In 1879, when he published a new edition of Lubbock's 'Fauna of Norfolk,' he was elected president of the Society, an honour which was again conferred upon him in 1893. He had become a Fellow of the Zoological Society in 1872, and in 1881 was elected a member of the British Ornithologists' Union. In that year he published his first book, 'The Seals and Whales of the British Seas' (reviewed in the 'Field' of May 28, 1881), and to this subject for many years he continued to devote considerable attention. From 1884 onward he contributed to the 'Zoologist' an annual report on the seal- and whale-fisheries, of great interest and value, the statistics being collected from the most trustworthy sources of

information. A reprint of these reports in book form would make a useful work of reference.

In 1902 he published an interesting volume on Sir Thomas Browne's observations on the 'Natural History of Norfolk,' which he edited from the MS. in the Sloane collection in the British Museum and in the Bodleian Library, Oxford, and elucidated with many critical notes. The difficulty of deciphering the MS. may be inferred from an inspection of the frontispiece to the volume, which gives a facsimile of one of Sir Thos. Browne's letters to Dr. Christopher Merrett, author of the 'Pinax Rerum Naturalium Britannicarum.' It is worth noting that Southwell not only detected errors of transcription which he corrected, but was able to supply two letters which were needed to make the correspondence with Dr. Merrett complete; these he printed in an Appendix.

Perhaps the most useful piece of work he accomplished, and that by which he will be best remembered, was his completion in 1890 of Stevenson's 'Birds of Norfolk,' of which he wrote the third and concluding volume from the letters and manuscripts of the deceased author, supplemented by original matter of his own. This was very well done, and was much needed by those who possessed the first two volumes and were anxious to see the work completed on the original plan. Southwell's long personal acquaintance with the author and his command of the necessary materials, coupled with his own knowledge of the subject, enabled him to do complete justice to this difficult undertaking.

Although not a collector in the generally accepted sense of the word, Southwell lost no opportunity of securing specimens for the Norwich Museum, in which he took great interest; and when the collections, which had been commenced in 1825, were transferred to the Corporation and finally installed in Norwich Castle in 1894, he prepared an excellent 'Official Guide to the Norwich Castle Museum,' with plans and numerous illustrations. The account therein given of the collection of British birds, including many



rarities procured in Norfolk, was written by Southwell, and forms not only an instructive introduction to the series, but also a useful collection of records.

If there was one subject more than another in which Southwell took special interest, it was the protection of birds in the close time, and particularly the preservation of such species as had their breeding haunts in Norfolk, which, by reason of continued persecution and in consequence of the reclamation of the waste lands to which they resorted, were being brought to the verge of extinction as breeding birds. On this subject he wrote much, and effectively, while the formation of local societies for the protection of birds in restricted areas, as, for example, at Breydon and at Wells, always elicited his encouragement and support. For many years he was a constant writer in the 'Zoologist,' and an occasional contributor to the Natural History columns of the 'Field,' where his letters and articles, always of an informing character, never failed to meet with the appreciation which they deserved. A long list might be given of his papers in the 'Transactions of the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society,' many of which were of an archaeological character and full of curious information. Active-minded almost to the last, he was prostrated by a stroke of paralysis on August 11th, and lingered until September 5th, when he passed peacefully away. His wife having predeceased him in July, 1903, he leaves two daughters to mourn his loss.—J. E. H.

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With much regret we have also to record the decease of two other distinguished Members of this Union—Dr. H. H. Giglioli, of Florence (on Dec. 14th), and Dr. R. Bowdler Sharpe, of the British Museum (on Dec. 25th). We propose to give some account of the Lives and Labours of these great ornithologists in our April number.